

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus comprises alteration means for altering the content of a first  
5 image file, read from a recording medium, in accordance with a user's instruction, and generating a second image file; and control means for, if authentication data is added to said first image file, recording said second image file onto said recording medium without  
10 deleting said first image file.